

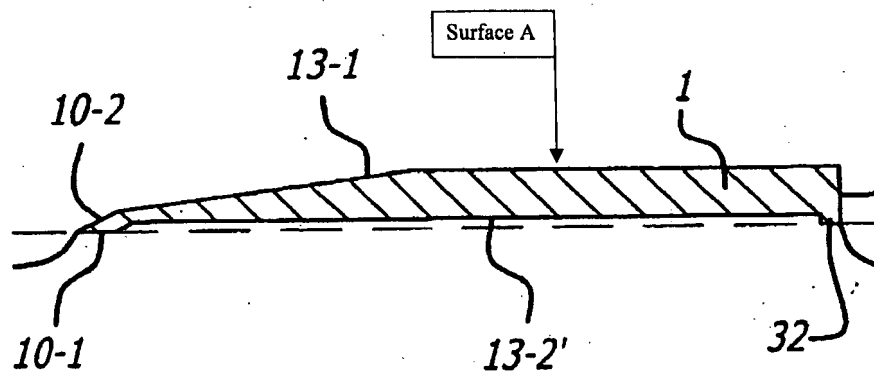
Statement of Substance of the Interview

The interview with the Examiner was on August 21, 2007. The main subject of the interview was related to this present application (10/684,293), although another application (11/046,299) was also briefly touched on. This statement will focus on content specifically relevant to this present application only.

Again, we greatly appreciate that we were granted this interview. The interview with the Examiner gave us the opportunity to discuss our arguments in our own words to the references sighted in the Office Action dated April 17, 2007, and to gain a better understanding of how to properly construct the content of our Claims, so that the Claims may more accurately describe the unique characteristics and qualities of our invention, and thus, distinguish it from the sighted references.

During the interview, we presented our arguments to the references sighted in the Office Action: Pope (6,643,934 B2), Lees (1,820,234), and Ishida (4,149,313). In addition, we also referenced in our arguments, Hollis (2,791,831). We inadvertently omitted specific arguments on Lillard (2,658,272) during the course of the interview. In the "Response and Remarks" section of this paper we have documented our arguments made during the interview and have also addressed Lillard.

After discussing the sighted references, the Examiner said he agreed that our invention was different, but the Claims needed to be amended. The Examiner pointed out Fig. 30a and how Claim 1 reads on that figure, and it was suggested to relate surface (13-1) and surface A (as identified by the Examiner) to surface (10-2) in order to overcome the combination of Pope, Lees, Ishida and Lillard. A copy of the Fig. 30a with the Examiner's notation is inserted below for reference.



Further, it was suggested that Claims 13, 15 and 21 refer back to Claim 1 and to cancel Claims 12, 22 and 25.

We have made our best effort to follow the Examiner's suggestions as detailed in the "Amendments to the Claims" and the "Response and Remarks" sections of this paper.

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

REJECTIONS UNDER SECTION 103(a)

In the Office Action, dated April 17, 2007, Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, 15, 21, 22, 25 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pope (6,643,934 B2) in view of Lees (1,820,234), Ishida (4,149,313), and Claim 30 was rejected as also being unpatentable over Pope in view of Lees and Ishida and further in view of Lillard (2,658,272).

REMARKS REGARDING SECTION 103(a) REJECTIONS

In the interview with the Examiner, we presented and discussed the following arguments, with the addition of our argument on Lillard, to the references sighted in the Office Action.

Pope (6,643,934 B2)

The Pope patent is an improvement on Hollis (2,791,831). Hollis discloses the "spirit" of the invention. The sharpening element disclosed in Pope is angled to match the specific angle of the bevel of the blade in the folding knife. This makes it impossible to sharpen the blade with an external sharpener - it is even stated by the manufacturer that doing so would damage the blade bevel (change the angle) and cause it not to work with the built-in sharpener. Further, the Pope sharpener does not, in real-life, accurately sharpen the bevel of the blade but, instead, the sharpening surface contacts the shoulder of the bevel.

In our present application, our invention is a unique improvement on Hollis (2,791,831). Our invention is the only blade design that is sharpened on the flat side and has a "guide" built into the design of the blade, which allows for a perfect match to the sharpening surface every time you sharpen, with any

sharpening device - integral or external, and thus achieve perfect results every time. Further, our integral sharpener may be "unlocked," removed, and changed to different sides exposing different sharpening grits, then replaced and relocked by the user with ease and efficiently in a very instinctive fluid movement. Or, the sharpener can simply be removed and used as an external sharpener on "any" knife blade. More discussion on the integral sharpening and storage system is presented below in reference to Lillard.

Lees (1,820,234)

Lees sharpens the angled bevel - the bevel is on the angled side. The concave blade shown by Lees is like many other blades - it's a hollow grind that is well known, but the purpose of this concave hollow grind is to make the blade thinner, so it has less friction for cutting.

Ishida (4,149,313)

The Ishida blade is a utility knife blade and is not made to be re-sharpened. If the user were to attempt to sharpen this blade, it would have to be sharpened on the angled side.

Further, if you were to combine the Ishida blade with the Pope sharpener, you would not be able to use an external sharpener because using an external sharpener would cause a change in the angle of the blade's bevel, and thus render the Pope sharpener un-usable because the sharpening surface would no longer match the bevel.

Lillard (2,658,272)

Lillard only describes a method of storing a sharpener on the outside of the handle with no intention or ability to in any way use the sharpener as an integral sharpening system. For over fifty years the Swiss Army knife, for instance, stores different tools, such as toothpicks and tweezers in their knife handles. Lillard does not disclose the general idea to store something in a knife

handle. Lillard shows specifically how to store a sharpener on the outside of the folding knife encasement using a spring-loaded steel ball.

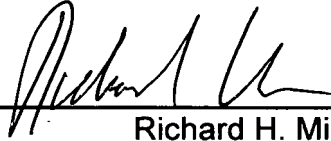
In our present application, we hold the sharpener inside the handle cavity, inserted into a fitted space in the inner wall facing the raised flat bevel of the folding knife blade. The sharpener is securely held in place by the blade tongue, and as stated previously, may be "unlocked," removed, and changed to different sides exposing different sharpening grits, then replaced and relocked by the user with ease and efficiently all in a very instinctive fluid movement. Or, the sharpener can simply be removed and used as an external sharpener on "any" blade.

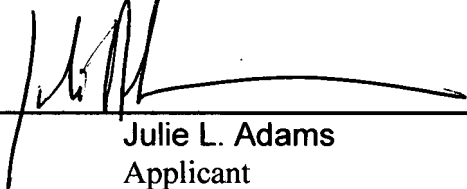
In addition, our "integral" sharpening and storage system is much safer to use and more secure, greatly reducing the possibility of accidentally losing the sharpener. Our invention requires no additional parts to secure the sharpener making it very cost effective to manufacture, as well.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the Claims, and for the foregoing reasons, as also discussed in the interview with the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the invention disclosed and claimed in the present amended application is not fairly taught by any of the prior art references of record, taken either alone or in combination, and that the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Claims of the present application be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Richard H. Miltner
Applicant
310/857-6671

By 
Julie L. Adams
Applicant
310/857-6671